



LIFE SAFETY BUREAU (LSB) STANDARDS ARE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON FIRE CODE. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTIONS COVERING – ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS AND METHODS, MODIFICATIONS, AND BOARD OF APPEALS.

LSB STANDARD 21
SECURITY GATES / GRILLES ON
ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCY

SECTION 1 --- GENERAL	PAGE
1.1 Scope	2
1.2 Purpose	2
SECTION 2 --- DEFINITIONS	
2.1 Assembly Occupancy	2
2.2 Security Gate	2
2.3 Security Grille	2
SECTION 3 --- REQUIREMENTS	
3.1 Assembly exiting	2
3.2 Prohibition	2
3.3 Location of security gates/grilles	2
3.4 Unlocking and unlatching of security gates/grilles	3
3.5 Backup power	3
3.6 Electronic locking devices	3
3.7 Electronic locking device activation	3
SECTION 4 --- UNAPPROVED SECURITY GATES/GRILLES	
4.1 Unapproved security gates/grilles	3
SECTION 5 --- DISCONTINUANCE OF USE	
5.0 Discontinuance of unapproved security gates/grilles	3
REFERENCES	4

LSB STANDARD 21

USE OF SECURITY GATES / GRILLES ON ASSEMBLY OCCUPANCY

SECTION 1 --- GENERAL

1.1 Scope.

Use of security type gates or grilles to restrict exit egress from assembly occupancies within the City of Houston shall be in accordance with the City of Houston *Fire Code* and this standard.

1.2 Purpose.

This standard shall provide guidelines on the use of security type gates or grilles that restrict exit egress from assembly occupancies.

SECTION 2 --- DEFINITIONS

2.1 Assembly Occupancy. Assembly Group A as defined by the City of Houston *Building Code*. Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering together of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions, recreation, food or drink consumption or awaiting transportation. A room or space used for assembly purposes by less than 50 persons and accessory to another occupancy shall be included as a part of that occupancy.

2.2 Security Gate. Any gating device which opens outwardly from a hinged position or slides open horizontally, for the expressed purpose of restricting use of a building's doorway for ingress or egress. May include, but is not restricted to, such devices as a lattice of linked metal chains or metal bars, accordion-style folding panel sections, or metal bars of a scissoring design that is pulled or stretched across a doorway and secured.

2.3 Security Grille. Any gating device which normally opens vertically for the expressed purpose of restricting use of a building's doorway for ingress or egress. The grille may include, but is not restricted to, such devices as a lattice of linked chain, open mesh, metal bars, or overhead folding panel design, that is lowered to the floor or ground level and secured in front of a doorway.

SECTION 3 --- REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Assembly exiting. Each door in a means of egress from any occupancy of Group A (Assembly) having an occupant load of 100 or more shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware or fire exit hardware.

3.2 Prohibition. Security gates and grilles shall not be allowed on the main entrance or main entrances of a Group A occupancy.

3.3 Location of security gates / grilles. Security gates and grilles shall only be allowed where there are two or more means of exit required and not more than one-half of the exits or exit access doorways may be equipped with security gates or grilles. The security gate or grille shall not impede the operation of the required exit door or infringe upon required exit width.

3.4 Unlocking and unlatching of security gates / grilles. Where security gates or grilles are permitted, the gate or grille shall only be equipped with a device that unlocks and unlatches the gate or grille without special knowledge or effort. The unlocking and unlatching of a security gate or grille shall not impede the operation of the required exit door, impede upon, or restrict the required exit width.

Where a closed security gate or grille is located as to impede the operation of a required exit door to the door's open position, the security gate or grille shall operate in unison with the exit door. The security gate or grille shall be unlocked and unlatched with the opening of the exit door.

Where a closed security gate or grille is located at a distance sufficient from the exit door as not to impede the door's opening, and the gate or grille is of a size large enough, the security gate or grille shall have an approved exit door built into its design.

3.5 Backup power. Where an electrical motor operates a security gate or grille, emergency electrical backup power shall be provided to ensure operation of the security gate or grille in the event of loss of normal electrical service.

3.6 Electronic locking devices. Where electronic locking devices are permitted to be installed on gates or grilles serving the means of egress the devices shall be installed in accordance with the *Building Code*, and shall be maintained in accordance with Houston Fire Department LSB Standard No. 02, "Inspection and Testing of Fire Protection and Life-Safety Equipment."

3.7 Electronic locking device activation. Electronic locking devices installed on exit doors, security gates or security grilles shall not be activated, except for installation testing, prior to required plan review, permitting and final on-site approval by the building official.

SECTION 4 ---UNAPPROVED SECURITY GATES OR GRILLES

4.0 Unapproved security gates / grilles. Where a security gate or grille not meeting this standard is found, it shall be deemed unapproved. The owner / operator / tenant of the property found in violation shall be subject to all penalties provided for by law for locked exits. Violations are subject to immediate citation for each and every device found in violation, minimum fine \$500.00 to \$2,000.00. Each day the violation is not corrected shall constitute a separate violation of the Fire Code and this standard.

SECTION 5 – DISCONTINUANCE OF USE

5.0 Discontinuance of unapproved security gates / grilles. Any and all unapproved security gates and grilles shall be immediately unlocked and unlatched, and removed or disabled until approval has been obtained in accordance with the *Fire Code* and this standard.

REFERENCES

1. City of Houston *Fire Code*, International Fire Code, 2000 edition, as amended.
2. City of Houston *Building Code*, International Building Code, 2000 edition, as amended